



# MEMORANDUM

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To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Ralph Clark, Interim City Manager  
Larry D. James Sr., Interim Chief of Police

Date: January 20, 2022

Subject: Consideration – Authorize Application to the Governor’s Crime Commission  
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant for FY2022-2023

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## ***BACKGROUND:***

The Elizabeth City Police Department seeks to submit an application to the Governor’s Crime Commission for the “Local Law Enforcement Block” Grant Program for FY2022-2023. The GCC LLEB Grant is being pursued for the purpose of acquiring needed equipment to be used in the effective and efficient operation of the department. Specifically, the department is seeking to continue to replace its older in-car cameras with newer ones. It is important to note that there is no budget impact, as there is no matching fund requirement for this particular grant.

If approved to make application for this grant, the department is seeking to acquire a total of 20 replacement in-car cameras. The new, replacement cameras will go to the Field Operations Division first, as the department is seeking to replace a total of 40 officers in Patrol with these cameras. Acquisition of 20 in-car cameras through this grant funding source is a highly effective and cost efficient way to continue the replacement acquisition process, which was started last year. The maximum grant budget for this particular grant is \$24,500.00 and the department is seeking to utilize all funds available.

## ***ANALYSIS:***

The announcement of the Governor’s Crime Commission’s Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program funding availability was made public in December 2021. Since 2013, the ECPD has applied for and received funding from the Governor’s Crime Commission. The department has been able to acquire a lot of equipment through this grant funding source, and is seeking to continue to take advantage of this opportunity. Preliminary grant applications are due by January 31, 2022.

This equipment enables officers to memorialize arrests in the field and suspect actions, as well as provide an accurate account of the officers' actions regarding complaints made by citizens. This technology is important to remain transparent and have accountability of our officers while in the field. The in-car cameras have become a standard in twenty-first century policing and there are no other viable options to achieve this standard except with the use of this equipment. Both the Elizabeth City Police Department's In-Car Camera Program and Body Worn Camera Program go hand-in-hand in promoting efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency in daily operations. Replacement of the department's existing in-car cameras is necessary due to the age of the will enhance the Department's existing equipment fleet, as well as provide for spares after all replacements have been completed.

Based on past years, the Department anticipates the Governor's Crime Commission making announcements of grant awards in April 2022.

***STAFF RECOMMENDATION:***

By motion, authorize the Elizabeth City Police Department to submit a preliminary grant application to the Governor's Crime Commission's "Local Law Enforcement Block" Grant program in the amount of \$24,500.00 for the purpose of acquiring 20 in-car cameras.